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# MU 510 Musical Foundations

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***MUSICAL FOUNDATIONS***  
***For***  
***PASTORAL MINISTRY***  
**Instructor: Wm. C. Goold ~ MU 510**  
**ASBURY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**  
**Three (3) Credits**  
Filed: MU510.Syllabus

**Course Description:**

This course explores and informs for the pastor, the content, context, purpose, functions and biblical and theological foundations and dynamic roles of music in the local church. Intentional emphasis is given in each class to content and modes of class presentation(s) knowing the intended focus of this course is towards pastors who, though perhaps not formally trained as musician, anticipate their weekly involvement with music in their congregation's worship of God.

**Course Goals:**

Upon completion of this course you will:

1. Understand and articulate a basic understanding of how music functions in Christian worship.
2. Understand and articulate a directing, guiding theology and philosophy of music in Christian worship.
3. Understand and evidence familiarity with a variety of corporate worship styles and how music functions most productively within each style.
4. Show your awareness of musical resources for special services or worship, including weddings, funerals, baptisms and other special services.
5. Understand and better use the resources available in a denominational hymnal such as *The United Methodist Hymnal* and *The United Methodist Book of Worship*.
6. Show your awareness and understanding of the content and contextual role of praise/worship materials.
7. Understand and evidence a broad-based history of the use of music in Christian worship, i.e., the long-term story of Christian music.
8. Gain an elementary understanding and grasp of congregational song leading.
9. Gain an elementary understanding and grasp of the historical role of Psalm singing and chanting plus methods for utilizing a variety of ways in which to do Psalm singing today.
10. Gain an elementary understanding of music theory, including key signatures and the meaning and functions of modulation and bridging with song sets.

**Course Texts:**

All students registered for the class will be expected to purchase and read in their entirety the following texts:

- Case, Riley B., Understanding Our United Methodist Hymnal. Bristol Books, 308 East Main Street, Wilmore, KY.
- Dough, Whitney J., The Hymnwriters: Our Unknown Friends. Providence House Publishers, Franklin, Tennessee, 37064. ISBN 1-881576-35-3.
- Flather, Doug and Tami., The Praise and Worship Team Instant Tune-Up. Zondervan, Grand Rapids, Michigan. ISBN 0-310-24232-0.
- Frame, John M., Contemporary Worship Music: A Biblical Defense. P & R Publishing, P.O. Box 817, Phillipsburg, New Jersey, 08865.
- Hurst, Lynn, Changing Your Tune! The Musician's Handbook for Creating Contemporary Worship. Abingdon Press. ISBN 0-687-02297-5.
- Hustad, Donald P., Jubilate II: Church Music in Worship and Renewal. Hope Publishing, Carol Stream, IL.

Students are not required to purchase a copy of The United Methodist Hymnal, but will need frequent access to a copy of this hymnal. The 1989 edition will be used almost every class period.

### **Course Procedure and Requirements:**

The professor will lead and lecture. Class method is a *modified seminar* format. Teaching style will be such that students will be given multiple opportunities for class discussion and will be expected to participate in these discussions. Some small group discussion will be included on particular issues. Class will utilize videos, recordings, much in-class singing, demonstrations by class members and sub-group processing. Because it is anticipated that class discussion will generate need for more discussion, portions of sessions may be intentionally given to “catch-up” as seems appropriate and with mutual consent between class and professor.

Note: *Agreement with the professor is not the goal of the class*. Exposure to varied positions and individual thinking are the desired goals, leading to formative, personal positions and thinking that will translate into present and future ministry application.

### **Requirements for All Class Members:**

1. **Read and assimilate all assigned reading.** A reading verification form will be distributed, collected and recorded. All reading for which the student desires credit music be completed by the time the class has reached the 80% point of all class periods. This precise date will be established at the first class meeting. Completion of all reading does not automatically assure the student of a grade of A, but not student will earn a grade of A without having completed all reading by the 80% point of the semester.
2. **Compile a Formal Class Notebook.** This notebook must be organized and tabulated. It must contain specific sections for class notes, personal journal entries (weekly), reading verifications, class handouts (including songs and musical resources), questions/concerns and insights, and other relevant materials,

forms and summaries. Obviously, regular class attendance will be a vital part in constructing such a notebook.

3. **Complete Two Worship/Music Analysis/Critique Forms.** This critique form will be distributed at the first class session. It will demonstrate your ability to meaningfully analyze the role and function of music in an actual corporate worship experience that you have attended. The exact nature and location(s) of these services will be discussed in class. Dues dates for each of the two will be established at the first class session.
4. **Compose a Post –Class Reflection Paper.** Content, form, length and due-date will be discussed and established at the first class session. When reading and grading this paper, the professor will take considerable note as to how accurately the student has followed the announced guidelines for this paper.
5. **Faithfully Attend All Class Session.** Attendance and participation are vital parts of the class method and format. One cannot participate if one is not present. Students will be expected to be present for all classes.
6. **Overnight Deliveries.** On a limited basis, the professor may distribute a few, brief, selected articles to be read and digested as food for class discussion. Students will be expected to read these prior to the following class session. These articles will not be lengthy, and will usually represent new discoveries the professor believes will add to cumulative class content.

#### **Determination of Final Grade:**

Final grade is determined on a modified contract basis. No class curve will be used. Therefore, it is possible for all students to receive a grade of A or any other grade, based on the following point/percentage scale:

|   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| Active and informed class participation/discussion/interaction  | 20%                          |
| Reading verification of assigned texts and handouts   | 40%                          |
| Note: Required reading for the class totals approximately 1,425 pages, not including The United Methodist Hymnal. Upon completion of the class, reading verifications will be factored into final grades on this basis: |                              |
| 1,425 pages (all books)   | = 40 pts towards final score |
| 1,200 pages   | = 33 pts towards final score |
| 975 pages   | = 26 pts towards final score |
| Class Notebook  | 10%                          |
| Worship Music Critiques (two @ five points each)  | 10%                          |
| Final Reflection Paper  | 20%                          |
| Total Points  | 100                          |

### TOPICS FOR LECTURE AND DISCUSSION

**Note:** Over the span of the semester, together we will explore and discuss the following topics and class activities. They may or may not be covered in the order listed, but together we will make every attempt to address as many as possible.

- Introduction and explanation of expectations and procedures.
- Multiple experiences of class singing, usually intended to be pedagogical in nature.
- How music functions in worship and elsewhere.
- What does music mean?
- How pastors can learn to think like musicians.
- How pastors can teach musicians to think like pastors.
- Pastoral ministry and music ministry: areas of common ground.
- *The Nature of Music* (video with class discussion guide).
- Twelve specific songs and how they function.
- Understanding a hymnal and how its functions (we will use The U.M. Hymnal).
- A closer look at the hymnal.
- Understanding meter and metrical feet.
- Helpful hints for teaching songs.
- Possibilities for increasing congregational repertoire.
- Familiar words with new tunes and familiar tunes with new words.
- Understanding the value and use of paraphrasing a hymn text.
- Improving and inspiring congregational song.
- Music theory for non-musical pastors.
- Becoming a song leader.
- Discovering and re-discovering Psalm singing in a variety of ways.
- Free-flowing praise and constructing a quality song-set.
- What actually goes on in worship: Thinking about worship forms and styles.
- Music and theology.
- Review and catch-up, used as needed.
- Final words about notebooks, critiques and reading reports.

**Professor's Pledge:** Students are rightfully concerned about the timely return of their papers, projects, notebooks and such. The professor will make every attempt to give prompt and meaningful turn-around and feedback. Papers of ten pages or less may be expected back within two weeks during the normal semester or the next class period of a commute-semester (example of the FL campus). The professor will attempt to return final notebooks and projects, with grades, within two weeks of the completion of class.

## **Notebook Suggestions for MU 510**

The following suggestions are intended to help you earn all possible points for your class notebook.

1. Secure a binder that you know will be large enough. Don't recycle an old, thin one!
2. Put your name and address on your binder in a place where it is easily read.
3. Purchase a set of manila, pre-punched tabulation dividers and use them.
4. Suggested, tabulated sections might be:
  - Class Syllabus, etc.
  - Hymns and Hymn Handouts
  - Praise and Worship Songs and Choruses
  - Psalms and Other Psalm-Related Materials
  - Class Notes
  - Class Lectures and Overheads
  - Case Studies
  - Additional Readings/Handouts
  - Music Theory Materials and Music Terms
  - Concepts and Applications I Have Learned
  - My Reading Verifications

You may wish to also include other sections as your notebook "grows".

5. Keep your notebook up-to-date. Don't wait until the final class to begin its assembly and organization. Assemble your notebook class by class.
6. Read the class syllabus from time to time. Keep in mind your notebook is a significant portion of your final grade. It is virtually impossible to earn an A without a quality notebook.
7. Goal: Upon completion of MU 510, you should be able to virtually teach the course from your notebook!

